

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are currently pending in the instant application.

Claim 8 has been amended herewith. Applicants submit no new matter has been provided by way of this amendment.

Claims 1-14 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Dijk in view of Hill. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection and request withdrawal of same.

Applicants' invention teaches crosslinker compositions at least as defined by Claim 1.

Dijk teaches methoxylated melamine-formaldehyde crosslinkers. Dijk does not teach or suggest the crosslinker compositions of Applicants' invention, wherein the ratios of monomer, oligomer, and imino content are as provided at least in Claim 1.

Hill teaches crosslinked melamine-formaldehyde resins. Hill does not teach or suggest the crosslinker compositions of Applicants' invention, wherein the ratios of monomer, oligomer, and imino content are as provided at least in Claim 1.

Dijk and Hill, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest the crosslinker composition of Applicants' invention. Further, there is no motivation to combine these references. Applicants submit a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established. Applicants request withdrawal of the rejection.

Claim 15 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Dijk in view of Hill, and further in view of Chu. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection and request withdrawal of same.

Applicants invention is as discussed above.

Dijk is as discussed above.

Hill is as discussed above.

Chu teaches low temperature polyester coatings with melamine crosslinkers. Chu does not teach or suggest the crosslinker composition of Applicants' invention wherein the ratios of monomer, oligomer, and imino content are as provided at least in Claim 1.

Dijk, Hill and Chu, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest the crosslinker composition of Applicants' invention wherein the ratios of monomer,

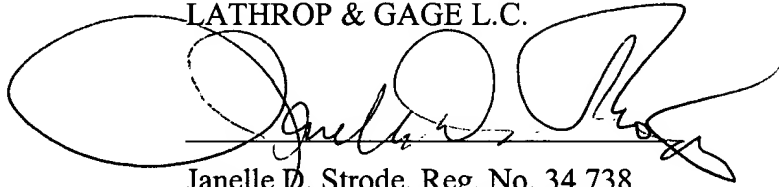
oligomer, and imino content are as provided at least in Claim 1. Further, there is no motivation to combine these references. Applicants submit a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established. Applicants request withdrawal of the rejection.

CONCLUSIONS

Should the Examiner believe that issues remain outstanding, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call Applicants' undersigned attorney in an effort to resolve such issues and advance this application to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

LATHROP & GAGE L.C.

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Janelle D. Strode', is written over a horizontal line.

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